(b) whether Israel had emerged as the second biggest defence partner of India after Russia, during the last 15 years and these relations were strengthened in the wake of the Kargil war in 1999; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to see that such raids in no way affect the defence deals with Israel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Defence equipment is being procured from Israel as from other nations according to Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2006. In case, however, any credible information comes to light regarding any wrong doing in the contracts signed with anyfirm, suitable action would be taken according to the contractual provisions.

Casualties by land mines

†1539. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers, children and women who died and of those who became handicapped during explosion of land mines laid by the army to check infiltration into various border areas of the country during the last three years;

(b) whether Government would contemplate to take any measures for the safety of Indians from land mines;

(c) if so, by when a decision in this regard would be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The total fatal and non-fatal casualties due to landmine accidents during 2002—2005 were 16 and 82 respectively. There has been no fatal or non-fatal casualty in 2006. No land mines have been laid by the Army to check infiltration into various border areas during the last three years. However,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

mines were laid as per operational plans dictated by need during Operation Parakaram. No land mines were laid without marking. Adequate measures are taken to prevent human casualties due to mines. All minefields are clearly fenced and marked and civilians are informed of the location. Mine awareness campaigns to educate the populace about identification of mines and precautions to be adopted are also undertaken by Army personnel.

Prevention of AIDS in Armed Forces

1540. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is planning to award the best practices for HIV prevention among services, to the Indian armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons found HIV positive during the last two years;

(d) the action taken against such persons; and

(e) the steps being taken to counsel the troops twice a week about the contraceptives, with do's and don'ts to avoid HIV?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) In the Forces, HIV/AIDS control programme has been working effectively and the same has been appreciated by UNAIDS, USA and some European countries. UNAIDS has not informed the Government about any award to Indian armed forces for best practices for HIV prevention amongst the Services.

(c) to (e) The incidence of HIV infection among Armed Forces personnel during the last two years is as follows:—

Year	Incidence
2004	0.028%
2005	0.028%